

645. The plate of claim 644, wherein said fusion promoting substance is at least in part other than bone.

646. The plate of claim 644, wherein said fusion promoting substance comprises bone morphogenetic protein.

647. The plate of claim 639, in combination with a bioresorbable material.--.

#### REMARKS

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application, claims 102-199 and 291-298 have been cancelled and new claims 538-647 added. Applicant amended the title to better reflect the subject matter of the pending claims. It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered and the claims allowed.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account 50-1066.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: 4-18-01

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